

2017
North Carolina Interagency Report
Litter Cleanup, Education/Prevention
and Enforcement

This report provides information for reporting year 2017

February 1, 2018

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Litter Report 2017

This report is prepared pursuant to Session Law 2006-79, Section 15 G.S. 147-12 (b) and provides information describing North Carolina's 2017 litter prevention initiatives.

The state's 2017 litter prevention campaign had three components:

- Litter cleanup
- Education - prevention
- Enforcement

Information contained in this report is for calendar year 2017 unless otherwise noted. This interagency report was prepared by NCDOT with multiple agencies providing reporting year information. A list of these agencies and litter report contacts is provided in Appendix A of this report.

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) total state highway system was comprised of approximately 80,000 road miles in 2017.

During 2017 NCDOT spent \$18,701,997.76 removing litter on state routes. Costs for DOT Forces, Contract Forces and Adopt-A-Highway totaled \$14,205,219.42. Funding for Minimum Highway Work Crews and Medium Custody Road Squads was \$4,496,778.34.

Per the Appropriations Act of 2017 (SB 257) the Department of Transportation is no longer required to provide funding for DPS Litter Crews and Road Squads. Therefore, beginning mid 2017 these efforts were no longer utilized.

In 2017, NCDOT increased the number of litter pickup contracts miles and frequency of pickup. With these contracts 100% of the 1,340 miles of interstate, approximately 75% of the 13,785 miles of primary highways, and approximately 10% of the 64,655 miles of secondary roads received litter pickup. At the close of 2017 4,387,230 pounds (over 2,193 tons) of litter was collected by these contracts.

The Adopt-A-Highway program continued to make a difference as the volunteers reported picking up 968,385 pounds of litter during 2017. There were 247,613 pounds of litter recovered under the Sponsor-A-Highway program and NCDOT Forces picked up 1,181,782 pounds in 2017.

Statewide litter prevention continued to be collectively supported by NCDOT, its Office of Beautification, DPS, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. NCDOT participated on various statewide organizational boards through its Office of Beautification, promoting litter prevention information through North Carolina Welcome Centers, health fairs, local community meetings, the State Fair, as well as providing litter prevention promotional items to numerous local organizations and schools.

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts provides a detailed 2017 recap of statewide littering charges by offense code and by law enforcement agency in this report. There were 3,320 charges and 1,078 convictions in 2017. As in previous years, the Conference of Chief District Court Judges continued to provide an alternative to first time offenders charged with littering of less than 15 pounds. On execution of written waiver of appearance and trial, and plea of guilty/responsible, an offender may have the court appearance waived. The fine for intentional littering is \$250 plus costs and \$50 plus costs for unintentional littering. This was adopted by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges on October 18, 2017, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-148, and applies to any new offenses on or after December 1, 2017.

1.0 Statewide Roadside Litter Cleanup

1.1 North Carolina Department of Transportation

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is responsible for litter control along State roadways. In 2017, NCDOT maintained its various litter cleanup programs including: Adopt-A-Highway (AAH), Sponsor-A-Highway (SAH), Contract Litter Removal (CLR) contracts, NCDOT Forces litter and bag removal, and bi-annual Litter Sweeps.

NCDOT continued to sponsor Litter Sweep (spring and fall), its statewide roadside litter cleanups. Litter Sweep was held the last two weeks of April and September, during which the department provided volunteers with gloves, safety vests, and bags for use in roadside litter removal. The department also provided additional manpower during Litter Sweep for litter cleanup, removal, and immediate disposal of bags filled with trash from NCDOT roadsides.

NCDOT continues to build its relationships with statewide nonprofit organizations to promote litter prevention for safe, environmentally sound, and aesthetic roadways. The nonprofit organizations involved included Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc. (KNCB) and the North Carolina Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association. The department also worked with the volunteers in the AAH program and other citizen volunteers and industries as well as North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice; Community Service Work Program (CSWP); State Highway Patrol; and local governments. In addition, the department's private, public, partnership initiative, the SAH Program continued to expand. This program provides a means for businesses, individuals and other organizations to sponsor roadside litter removal.

1.2 NCDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program

NCDOT's Office of Beautification continued to administer the department's AAH program. This statewide program is a mutually beneficial partnership between the department and community volunteers. The volunteers participating in the AAH program include businesses, individuals, schools, civic organizations, and professional, religious, and social groups. Participants agree to support local roadside litter removal by adopting a two-mile stretch of roadway and volunteering their time to pick up the litter at least four times a year. The AAH agreement is for a four year period. In return, the department provides gloves, safety vests, and bags for cleanups and recognizes each group by installing a sign with the group's name at each end of its adopted roadway. Upon reaching 10, 15, 20 and 25 year milestones, recognition awards along with anniversary stars to be placed on their signs, are given to the volunteer groups.

In 2017, the AAH Program cost \$504,011. Program costs include statewide program administration as well as the costs to the highway divisions for their local AAH program administration, sign installation, bag removal, and provision of safety vests, bags, and gloves. There were 10,177 man-hours charged to this program in 2017, which is up from 8,110 man-hours charged in 2016.

The State AAH Coordinator utilized the assistance of Division Litter Managers and various program coordinators and co-coordinators throughout all 14 divisions. The coordinators manage the adoption and signage approval processes and other program administrative responsibilities within their assigned counties.

At the close of 2017, there were 9,440 road miles adopted by 4,797 AAH groups. The volunteer cleanup efforts of the AAH program saved the state's taxpayers millions of dollars. Volunteers reported working 100,936 hours and picked up 968,385 pounds of litter.

1.3 NCDOT Sponsor-A-Highway Program

NCDOT's Sponsor-A-Highway (SAH) Program was initiated in 2011 as a public-private partnership. Beginning as a pilot, it covered 22 counties. In 2015, the program went statewide covering all NC interstate highways. In 2017, the program expanded beyond interstates. The SAH Program provides a means for businesses, individuals and other organizations to participate in beautifying and environmentally enhancing North Carolina Interstate highways while having the advantage of advertising their company name at the same time.

This public private partnership is pursuant to North Carolina Section 3. General Statute 136-28.1 (l). Per the terms of the program, a service provider's responsibilities include marketing, securing sponsors, sign installation and maintenance, and litter removal and disposal using their own crews. The sponsors, who hire the department's approved service providers for highway litter removal, receive a logo acknowledgement panel that's attached to the SAH program sign. The signs are installed at the beginning of each sponsored one-mile segment.

There are two service providers who have contracted with NCDOT. They are Adopt A Highway Maintenance Corporation of Costa Mesa, California, and Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service of America, Inc., of Encinitas, California. Both companies have a long history in the roadside litter removal industry, and use their own staff, cleaning supplies, and vehicles. Their employees are trained to work on interstates and other high traffic volume roadways.

The cost for sponsors participating in the program is negotiated solely between sponsor and service provider. There is no money exchanged between NCDOT and the service providers. At the close of 2017, SAH service providers maintained 281 sponsored one-mile segments, which was an increase from the 219 segments maintained in 2016. Some sponsors have multiple segments. Each segment is cleaned monthly.

1.4 NCDOT Litter Management Reorganization and Cleanup Initiative

NCDOT's 2015 Appropriations Act mandated department reorganization for the management of vegetation and litter along highways. This included the transfer of litter management responsibilities to NCDOT's Roadside Environmental staff to ensure litter activities are planned and coordinated in the most efficient manner possible in each Division. In order to facilitate the transition of litter management responsibilities, Roadside Environmental designated Litter Managers in each division to coordinate efforts for litter abatement programs, except for the

Inmate Litter Pickup Program which continued to be managed by the State Maintenance Operations.

In 2017, NCDOT increased the number of litter pickup contracts miles and frequency of pickup. The Department also moved further toward combined litter pickup/mowing contracts. This brought the total contract levels to 27 litter and 31 mowing/litter combined. With these contracts 100% of the 1,340 miles of interstate, approximately 75% of the 13,785 miles of primary highways, and approximately 10% of the 64,655 miles of secondary roads received litter pickup. At the close of 2017 4,387,230 pounds (over 2,193 tons) of litter was collected by these contracts.

1.5 NCDPS Road Squads/ Litter Crews

Per the Appropriations Act of 2017 (SB 257) the Department of Transportation is no longer required to provide funding for DPS Litter Crews and Road Squads as of Fiscal Year 2018 (mid 2017). In previous years, DOT was mandated to transfer \$9,040,000 to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for costs associated with the Minimum Custody Highway Work Crews and Medium Custody Road Squads. This amount was set in the 2010 Fiscal Year Budget Bill. The Minimum Custody Road Squads are still utilized within DOT crews at the discretion of County Maintenance Engineers; funding to DOC is \$1 per man-day worked.

During 2017 approximately 87% (15,763 man days) of inmate labor from the Minimum Custody Work Crews was dedicated to litter pickup, and approximately 67% (6,521 man days) of inmate labor from the Medium Custody Road Squads was dedicated to litter pickup. Minimum Custody Road Squads were utilized for about 1.5% (1,569 man days) of work performed. These efforts were included in the Spring 2017 Litter Sweep.

1.6 Community Service Work Program – Litter Control Efforts

The Community Service Work Program (CSWP) was established as a grant funded initiative in the early 1980's. During 1983, it was established as a program through the Safe Roads Act. Effective January 2002, CSWP was transferred from the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to the Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections through legislative action.

As of January 1, 2012, CSWP is now a part of the NCDPS. CSWP is a separate program from the inmate work crews. Offenders in CSWP are not incarcerated, but are ordered to perform community service work hours, as a condition of either supervised or unsupervised probation, depending upon the criminal offense committed and the offender's history.

Community Corrections judicial services coordinators place offenders at government or non-profit agencies, within the local community, to perform work needed by the agency. During 2017, there were more than 2,000 agencies statewide which participated in the CSWP by contracting as worksites for placement of community service offenders.

Offenders perform a variety of work, including general labor, skilled labor, clerical labor, professional labor and litter removal. The value of the various types of labor is calculated upon the North Carolina Department of Labor categories and relative market value minimum payment rates. Many of these agencies focus on litter control regularly and also participate in the NCDOT Litter Sweeps. Table 1-1 below summarizes CSWP litter pickup results by year.

Table 1-1 CSWP Litter Pickup Results by Year

Year	Pounds Collected	Number of Hours Worked
2017	1,399,988	77,777
2016	1,534,330	85,241
2015	1,713,949	95,219
2014	1,839,144	102,175

NCDPS prison inmate crews and CSWP litter pickups are performed separately and independently of one another.

1.7 NCDOT Litter Removal Disbursements Summary

Table 1-2 below summarizes NCDOT disbursements for litter removal by year.

Table 1-2. NCDOT Disbursements

NCDOT Disbursement by Year				
Program	2017	2016	2015	2014
NCDOT Employees	\$1,322,487	\$4,065,556	\$5,898,576	\$6,091,996
AAH	\$504,011	\$405,736	\$305,173	\$251,611
NCDPS Prison (Medium and Minimum Custody Inmates)	\$4,496,778	\$9,046,871	\$9,045,449	\$9,170,072
CLR	\$12,378,721	\$6,033,687	NA	NA
Disbursement by year:	\$18,701,997	\$19,551,850	\$15,251,032	\$15,513,679

1.8 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

1.8.1 Division of Parks and Recreation

The Division of Parks and Recreation hosts litter cleanup events and educational programs to demonstrate the importance of litter abatement and recycling. For instance:

- Approximately 45 students participated in the Trash Boat Regatta during summer camps at Haw River State Park. They learned about litter and then created boats using trash.

- William B. Umstead State Park celebrated MLK Jr. Day of Service with 32 volunteers doing a litter cleanup.
- New River State Park hosted a Big Sweep event on September 9th with 63 volunteers removing litter from our waterways.

The Division of Parks and Recreation reported 895 participants that collected 6,480 pounds associated with these events in 2017.

1.9 Other Statewide Litter Cleanups

1.9.1 Keep NC Beautiful

Keep NC Beautiful, Inc. (KNCB) was established in 1984 within NCDOT's Office of Beautification. Following reassignment to other state agencies, it became a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1986 and earned certification as a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful in 1990.

The purpose of KNCB is to serve as a liaison between KAB and the local affiliates to ensure they are meeting "good standing" requirements necessary to maintain certification. This is accomplished through workshops, meetings and general communications addressing the concerns of executive directors. KNCB's long term goal is to have a KAB presence in all 100 counties.

Adhering to the national KAB proven model of success, KNCB supports the four core focus areas of:

1. Litter prevention and cleanups;
2. Beautification and community gardens and greening projects;
3. Waste reduction, recycling, and reuse; and
4. Education.

The strength of KNCB is its ability to organize "boots-on-the-ground" volunteers that provide valuable services that ultimately improve community aesthetics, create safer environments, and positively impacts economic development without relying on tax dollars. This is accomplished by the KAB behavioral change system:

1. Get the facts,
2. Prioritize the behaviors,
3. Develop and implement action plan,
4. Evaluate impacts, and
5. Provide feedback.

The system is comprised of four behaviors strategies:

1. Written expectations (ordinances/policies),

2. Infrastructure,
3. Persuasion, and
4. Rewards and penalties.

KNCB is currently comprised of 39 certified KAB affiliates located in 35 North Carolina counties benefiting 229 communities. Each affiliate is uniquely operated in accordance with the means of their governing body. While most affiliates are housed in a county or city government department (such as solid waste, planning, parks and recreation, community improvement and public health), others are volunteer organizations that may or may not have a paid executive director but they do maintain an affiliate in good standing status as required by KAB.

Some counties have more than one affiliate within their boundaries, such as Gaston County with three, Guilford County with two and Mecklenburg County with two. The preferred scenario is affiliation at the county level as it encompasses the entire boundaries whereas a city affiliation may be restricted to their jurisdiction.

1.9.2 KAB Programs

The KAB menu of programs is extensive and allows affiliates the opportunity to pick and choose as appropriate for their staffing and funding allocations. Their signature programs are:

The Great American Cleanup™ (GAC): it is the nation's largest community improvement program, engaging more than four million volunteers and participants every year to create positive change and lasting impact in local communities. The 2017 GAC results from the KNCB affiliate network are listed in Table 1-3.

I Want to be Recycled: a national advertising campaign promoting recycling from the voice of a recyclable item such as a plastic bottle that wants to become a park bench. Affiliates can customize the advertisement to include their logo.

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program: created by KAB in 2002, is the nation's largest program aimed at eliminating cigarette litter.

America Recycles Day: it is the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Each year, on and in the weeks leading into November 15, thousands of communities across the country participate by promoting environmental citizenship and taking action to increase and improve recycling in America.

1.9.3 Other Programs

Other KAB programs include:

Gameday Challenge: a friendly competition for colleges and universities to promote waste reduction at home football games.

National Planting Day: a fall initiative for affiliates and other partners to create beautiful spaces in public places and at home by planting pollinator gardens and native species.

RecycleMania: a friendly two-month competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs that promotes waste reduction activities with their campus communities.

Education and Behavior Change: the cornerstones of KAB striving to educate and empower generations of community and environmental stewards with curricula and real-world experiences that teach the essentials of proactive community citizenship, including the preservation of our natural resources.

Recycling at Work: a voluntary national effort to increase recycling in the workplace. The program offers businesses a 10-step action plan, discounts on recycling bins, and other valuable tools to start and expand a workplace recycling program.

Recycle-Bowl: a four-week contest held in the fall for in-school recycling competition for K-12 students, teachers, school administrators, school facility managers, parent teacher associations/ organizations and other parent groups, and local recycling advocates.

Coca Cola Recycling Grant: is designed to expand access to recycling in public spaces in communities across America. Since 2007, nearly 900 organizations including schools, local governments, universities and other community groups have received grants providing more than 45,000 recycling bins. The program is funded through a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, the philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company.

The above programs have been developed, tested, and made available to affiliates in a turnkey format that allows them to customize and market in their local areas. The initial certification and annual maintenance fees (based upon affiliate population) entitles use of these programs.

1.9.4 Affiliate Growth and Support

KNCB actively pursues all leads for potential candidates for KAB affiliation. A majority of the candidates are housed in city or county government and have exhausted their resources for handling litter on an ongoing basis and will contact KNCB for information on how to develop a comprehensive litter prevention program. Others are grass-roots driven and are successful in getting local community support to achieve affiliation. Often leads are found by disgruntled citizens who want to see something done to eradicate the problem.

During the certification process, KNCB provides direct support to ensure that the candidates meet milestones in order to reach the completion of the requirement by the certification target date. KNCB reaches out to assist affiliate members that are in danger of being de-certified from failure to meet KAB requirements to remain in good standing. KNCB serves as a liaison

between KAB and the local affiliates to provide information or guidance on program implementation or reporting requirements.

KNCB is a Council of the Carolina Recycling Associate and as part of the their annual conference, a litter prevention workshop is held to provide training of which six hours is required to be in good standing by KAB. This is an invaluable benefit as some affiliates lack the funds to attend the national KAB conference.

1.9.5 KNCB Tarp Awareness Program

The Tarp Awareness Program began in 2009, when NCDOT's Office of Beautification had an innovative idea to educating drivers of small pickup trucks and trailers of the danger associated with litter being blown from uncovered or unsecured vehicles.

KNCB entered into a partnership whereas local KAB affiliates received and distributed tarps to individuals using recycling drop-off centers or landfills. Included with the tarps was an educational brochure outlining the importance of properly covering or securing loads which included language addressing litter laws and associated penalties as defined by G.S. 14-399.

Funding for the tarps was provided through NCDOT's Litter Prevention Fund, which helps support statewide anti-litter efforts. The revenue source for this fund was generated by a portion of the sale of "Litter Prevention" specialty license plates. Upon depletion of those funds, KNCB received grants from UPS, the Wal-Mart Foundation, The Duke Foundation and PepsiCo to administer campaigns. The program is now grant and/or sponsorship dependent. NCDOT remains a valuable partner for the tarp program by providing use of their tarp contract to ensure lowest price per unit and offers shipping to designated affiliates in conjunction with scheduled deliveries to local NCDOT maintenance yards. This allows for the greatest number of tarps per campaign.

1.9.6 KNCB Community Clean-up Efforts

KNCB affiliate members and their volunteers worked in partnership with local businesses, nonprofit and civic groups, government agencies, schools, colleges, and members of the faith communities and others to accomplish a variety of tasks during the 2017 GAC™, resulting in thousands of saved tax dollars in improved community environments. *Note: The following data reflects only figures addressing work from March 1-May 31, 2017 and does not include efforts performed by other groups or government agencies.*

Table 1-3. KNCB Community Clean-up Efforts

Events/Volunteers/Communities:	
Cleanup, beautification, waste reduction and recycling events	824
Number of volunteers	98,856
Number of volunteer hours	347,113
Clean-Up:	
Number bags collected at events	245,287
Pounds of litter, debris and bulky waste collected	4,954,100
Miles roads, hiking, biking and nature trails cleaned and beautified	1,603
Acres parks/public lands/open spaces cleaned and beautified	2,492
Number of playgrounds/community recreation areas built, cleaned, restored	63
Miles of rivers, lakes, shorelines cleaned	144
Number of underwater cleanups conducted	6
Number of wetlands cleaned and improved	9
Number of illegal dump sites cleaned	21
Beautification and Greening:	
Gardens, xeriscapes and green spaces created and improved	153
Edible community gardens planted or replanted	22
Number of trees, seedlings and shrubs planted	3,865
Number of flower bulbs planted	423,500
Number of homes, community/commercial buildings painted, renovated, built	8
Number of graffiti site removed/abated	28
Number of junk cars removed	47
Waste Reduction and Recycling:	
Pounds of clothing collected for reuse	810
Pounds of plastic bottles (PET) collected for recycling	414,010
Pounds of aluminum and steel collected for recycling	195,972
Pounds of glass collected for recycling	110,000
Pounds of paper and corrugated collected for recycling	1,532,000
Pounds of electronics collected	526,340
Pounds of household hazards waste collected	281,000
Pounds of batteries	7,010
Pounds of tires	178,230
Education:	
Number of education workshops, presentations and awareness events held	810
Number in attendance	81,000

2.0 Anti-Litter Education/Prevention

2.1 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

2.1.1 Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

The Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) conducts three separate campaigns to reinforce recycling behavior and to encourage North Carolinians to properly manage their discarded materials at home, work, school, and on-the-go. These programs are described briefly below:

Recycle Guys



The Recycle Guys campaign is intended to reach elementary and middle school children with videos, activity books, stickers, pencils, trading cards and other promotional materials to encourage recycling behavior. Of the most commonly used Recycle Guys videos, one specifically addressing litter (developed through a partnership with NCDOT) is consistently among the highest accessed links on the www.recycleguys.org website.

RE3.org



The RE3.org campaign is aimed at a young adult audience, from high school through late 20s, also using videos but more focused on use of social media. The campaign makes use of commercials or short films submitted by students and amateur film producers and a number of these video pieces include anti-littering themes.

Recycle More NC



Recycle More NC is a campaign designed to engage the 30-55 demographic on recycling issues. The intent is to encourage broader participation in existing recycling programs but also to create a recycling ethic everywhere people go by fostering the development and promotion of “Away From Home” recycling.

The following provides a general description of the activities of DEACS outreach programs in 2017:

- Promotion around national events such as Earth Day and America Recycles Day (ARD) including the first statewide social media campaign to #RecycleMoreNC for ARD in partnership with Keep NC Beautiful. ARD 2017 focused on recycling in North Carolina State Agencies utilizing social media and the hashtags #ARD, #AmericaRecyclesDay, #RecycleMoreNC, and #NCRecycles. State agencies and individuals were encouraged to post photos of people caught recycling using the listed hashtags. Several agencies, including the State Highway Patrol, NCDOT, as well as colleges and universities, participated in the event.

- Continued usage of social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr for the campaigns.
- Production of promotion materials, distributed directly to the public or through local government recycling programs. DEACS also distributes NCDOT anti-litter stickers and posters.
- Training of recycling and solid waste staff, teachers, and environmental educators on recycling and outreach methods.
- Encouragement of Away-From-Home recycling best practices that include proper trash and recycling bin selection and sighting to reduce contamination and litter issues.

Specific Focus on Plastic Bags in 2017

During 2017 the NC DEACS Recycling Office made a concerted effort to address plastic bags and their proper management. This was accomplished through the following efforts:

- Plastic Bag Forum: The forum was sponsored by the Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) with contributions from the CRA, the Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP), and the NC DEACS Recycling Office with a three-part message.
 - Plastic bags do not belong in the curbside or drop-off recycling collection systems because the bags are contaminants that cause substantial difficulty at facilities that receive and sort the recyclables from these systems.
 - Plastic bags should be returned to retailers such as local grocery stores for proper recycling.
 - Do not dispose of or otherwise release plastic bags in the environment.

WRAP is a national public awareness and outreach initiative sponsored by the American Chemistry Council that is designed to increase the recycling of plastic films such as case-wraps, retail bags, and flexible packaging. The WRAP Campaign developed outreach materials for communities to use for implementing the “return to retail” message. The NC DEACS Recycling Office provides graphic design support for Local Governments seeking to educate their citizens about proper management of plastic bags, which incorporate the “no plastic bags in recycling” and “return to retail” message.

- NC Coastal WRAP Campaign Launch: In an effort to help make plastic bags and film a more commonly recycled material in coastal communities, the Coastal WRAP Campaign was launched in July, 2017. This campaign focused on preventing plastic bags from being improperly directed into the curbside and public drop-off recycling stream and returning them to retail for recycling. A second objective of this effort aimed to prevent plastic bags and film from being released into the environment.

The initial launch of the Coastal WRAP effort was in Onslow and New Hanover Counties in July. During late summer and early fall, the WRAP Campaign was launched in Carteret County and municipalities and counties surrounding New Hanover County. The NC DEACS Recycling Office and the WRAP Campaign contractor, More Recycling, met with communities to discuss the WRAP Campaign and to provide resources.

Other Participation from DEACS on Littering Issues in 2017:

- DEACS assisted in developing and presenting the content for the 2017 Marine Debris Symposium, a three-day conference focused on preventing and reducing litter and pollution in marine environments.
- DEACS promoted the 2017 North Carolina Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association Conference to encourage proper materials management and expanding recycling programs to reduce illegal dumping.
- DEACS functions as NCDEQ's customer service center and handled numerous inquiries in 2017 on littering and illegal dumping issues.
- DEACS also oversees the state of North Carolina's recycling efforts, which includes technical assistance to local government recycling programs across the state. Through regular communication in email newsletters, workshops, conference sessions, and other settings, DEACS staff provided information to communities about littering issues, opportunities for anti-litter initiatives (such as the tarp program) and the management of illegal dumping.

2.2 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The Division of Engineering/Lands Management and Water Access Section combined efforts in litter cleanup. Approximately 405 man-hours were spent performing litter removal for the past year. With 40 boating access areas, 196 public fishing access areas and over 500,000 acres of game land areas; NCWRC has installed signage for these areas that deal with littering and how it impacts the environment. NCWRC continues to have kiosks at game lands entrances with littering signs attached.

2.3 NCDOT – Office of Beautification

In 2017, NCDOT's Office of Beautification promoted litter prevention awareness through its website. Each year, Keep Gastonia Beautiful Inc., of Gastonia provides access to their Beautification and Environmental Education Programs. Their entire curriculum is posted on a website which allows an easy download for classroom usage. The link is carried on NCDOT's Office of Beautification website.

Other items available through NCDOT's Office of Beautification website include previous Litter Reports, the litter law, Swat-A-Litterbug, and AAH and SAH Program information, Litter Sweep and its forms including cleanup safety videos, printable activity pages - *Litter Activity Book* with litter prevention lessons and activities for students through third grade. There are also a variety

of links to sites supporting litter prevention. Additionally, educational materials for schools, civic groups and others were provided by the Office of Beautification; these included litter prevention activity pages, “I don’t litter - I recycle” stickers, no litter bumper stickers, Swat-A-Litterbug cards and stickers, temporary tattoos, car litter bags, litter law fliers, and “Secure Your Load” fliers.

NCDOT’s Office of Beautification also distributed thousands of car litter bags and other litter prevention handouts, fliers and brochures through visitor and welcome centers, the State Fair, Earth Day events and upon request to numerous groups. The car litter bag’s graphics promote the message that littering is illegal.

Adopt-A-Highway Program: The AAH program began its 29th year of operation in 2017. Each year the AAH groups are recognized for their consecutive years of service beginning with 10-years and at years 15, 20 and 25. In 2017, more than 300 AAH groups received awards for their years of volunteer service to the program.

State Fair Booth: In 2017, NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit’s State Fair booth offered teacher materials. This was its 14th year that a teacher materials window was available for teachers to request litter prevention items to assist within their classroom curriculum. Items offered included the litter prevention activity pages, stormwater activity pages, stormwater fact sheets, Swat-A-Litterbug cards, stickers, pencils and temporary tattoos, litter law fliers, car litter bags, and Do Not Litter bumper stickers. The car litter bags had “Stop the Littering” printed on one side along with the message “it could cost you...up to a \$2,000 fine, community service work and a point on one’s driver license”. There were enough materials provided to supply more than 5,500 students in grades K-12. During the past 14 years, more than 143,500 students have received these materials.

Other Litter Prevention Initiatives, Meetings, and Presentations: The Office of Beautification continued to promote the NCDOT trash bags. The bags are orange on the outside and reversible to blue on the inside for items to be recycled. The bag also has a draw string for safe and easy closure. The bags display the NCDOT logo and a Do Not Litter message. These bags are available at NCDOT maintenance yards for Litter Sweep volunteers and are available for division AAH coordinators to order as needed.

The Office of Beautification participated in various community and civic organization presentations that encouraged the audience to adopt a highway. The FlashCam agreement with the Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association continued in 2017. The FlashCam camera worked successfully in keeping illegal dumping from occurring in the selected surveillance locations in various counties.

Swat-A-Litterbug Program: This program is administered by the Office of Beautification in conjunction with the State Highway Patrol and is intended to educate motorists that littering is illegal. Motorists observed littering can be reported through the mail, by calling the NCDOT Customer Service Office at 1-877-DOT-4YOU or using the Office of Beautification website within the Swat-A-Litterbug link. Reports include information regarding the offender’s vehicle

license plate number, time of observance, date, street, city, county and a description of the littering offense observed. There were more than 15,000 Swat-A-Litterbug report cards printed for distribution in 2017.

When reports are received, a letter, signed by the Colonel of the State Highway Patrol, is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle reported. The recipient is informed of the littering offense observed, that littering is illegal and that it's a fineable offense upon conviction. There are no citations or warnings issued from these reports. The program is totally anonymous and no record is kept regarding who submits a report or receives a letter. The materials used in the mailings cost approximately \$4,000 in 2017. There were 5,330 Swat-A-Litterbug letters mailed in 2017.

Litter License Plate: The NC General Assembly approved the "Litter Prevention" specialty license plate in 2001. Ten dollars of each plate renewed is diverted to the "Litter Prevention Fund" on a quarterly basis. The money is used to help support statewide anti-litter efforts.

2.4 NCDOT – Litter Related Signage

NCDOT has "Keep NC Clean & Green" litter prevention signs posted along state roadways and at various Rest Areas and Welcome Centers. In addition to the "Keep NC Clean & Green" signs, there are "Littering Is Illegal" signs posted across the state.

2.5 NCDPS – Litter Free NC

NCDPS did not conduct the Litter Free NC program in 2017.

3.0 Litter Law Enforcement

3.1 North Carolina Department of Public Safety

In 2017, the State Highway Patrol issued 541 citations for littering [G.S. 14-399 and local ordinances) and 673 citations for failing to properly secure a load (G.S. 20-116(g)), for a total of 1,214 citations. The State Highway Patrol also partnered with NCDOT by participating in the NCDOT spring and fall Litter Sweeps and focused on citing motorists that either littered or failed to properly secure and/or cover their loads. Troopers issued 141 citations during the spring and fall 2017 Litter Sweeps. State Highway Patrol citations for past years are shown in the tables below.

Table 3-1. State Highway Patrol Recap of Litter Charges

Year	Number of Litter Charges
2017	541
2016	740
2015	790
2014	831

Table 3-2. State Highway Patrol Recap of Improper Loading/Covering of Vehicle

Year	Number of Charges
2017	673
2016	735
2015	710
2014	538

3.2 NCDEQ, Division of Parks and Recreation

NCDEQ, Division of Parks and Recreation sponsored educational programs and community events that serve as a proactive approach to litter prevention and law enforcement. In addition to these educational measures, state park rangers issued 27 littering citations in 2017.

3.3 NCDEQ, Division of Marine Fisheries – Marine Patrol

NCDEQ, Division of Marine Fisheries, North Carolina Marine Patrol concentrates its litter enforcement on the coastal waters. In 2017, Marine Patrol officers issued 7 citations and six warnings for littering violations. Marine Patrol officers attributed 176 hours to this effort. In 2016, Marine Patrol officers issued eleven citations and three warnings for a total of fourteen littering cases, expending 208.5 hours (these numbers have been updated from last year's report).

Table 3-3. Marine Patrol Citation Recap

Year	Littering Citations	Littering Warnings	Time Spent
2017	7	6	176 hours
2016	11	3	208.5 hours
2015	6	3	192 hours
2014	12	2	1,052 hours
2013	8	2	90 Hours
2012	7	3	107 Hours
2011	11	5	83 Hours
2010	7	1	115 Hours
2009	51	2	197 Hours
2008	18	4	140 Hours

3.4 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

3.4.1 2017 Littering Report for NC Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Officers are always on the lookout for littering violations and often set up special details to target littering violations in problem areas along waterways, boating access areas and game lands. In 2017, Wildlife Enforcement Officers issued the following number of littering citations:

Littering under G.S. 14-399: 22 citations issued for a total of \$4,815.00 dollars in fines and \$4,838.00 in court costs.

Littering Waters of This State under G.S. 75A-10: Three citations issued for a total of \$540.00 in fines and \$300.00 in court costs.

Littering on Boating Access Areas under 15A NCAC 10E .0104: Six citations issued for a total of \$600.00 in fines and \$540.00 in court costs.

Littering on Game Lands under 15A NCAC 10D .0102(b): 9 citations issued for a total of \$175.00 in fines and \$540.00 in court costs.

Engineering Services/Lands Management maintain approximately 40 boating access areas, 196 public fishing access areas across the state and over 500,000 acres of game land areas. Maintenance and operation of these areas includes the policing and removal of litter.

3.5 North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) provides a 2017 update of statewide littering charges by offense code and by law enforcement agency. There were 3,320 charges and 1,078 convictions in 2017. Littering charges and convictions are also shown by offense code and by each county in a detailed table at the end of this section.

As in previous years, the Conference of Chief District Court Judges continued to provide an alternative to first time offenders charged with littering of less than 15 pounds. On execution of written waiver of appearance and trial, and plea of guilty/responsible, an offender may have the court appearance waived. The fine for intentional littering is \$250 plus costs and \$50 plus costs for unintentional littering. This was adopted by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges on October 18, 2017, pursuant to NC G.S. 7A-148, and applies to any new offenses on or after December 1, 2017.

Calendar year 2017 data on charges and convictions, including the number of charges disposed and the manner of disposition are tracked for the eleven offenses listed in Table 3-4. Table 3-5 shows the following data provided from the NCAOC's Automated Criminal/Infraction System for 2017. The number of charges, convictions, and dispositions represents totals from district and superior court. Some of the defendants have other charges in addition to a littering offense. It is possible for a defendant to be charged in one calendar year and convicted in the next. Thus, for any given calendar year, the defendants convicted are not necessarily the same defendants charged in that year.

Table 3-4. List of Offenses

Offense Code	Description	Reference
4425	Improper Loading/Covering of Vehicle	§ 20-116(g)
5370	Commercial Littering	§ 14-399(e)
5371	Littering Hazardous Waste	§ 14-399(e)
5372	Littering not more than 15 pounds	§ 14-399(c)
5373	Littering more than 15 but less than 500 pounds	§ 14-399(d)
5374	Littering more than 500 pounds	§ 14-399(e)
5375	Unintentional Littering not more than 15 Pounds	§ 14-399(c1)
5376	Unintentional Littering more than 15 but less than 500 Pounds	§ 14-399(d1)
5377	Unintentional Littering more than 500 Pounds	§ 14-399(e1)
6248	Litter Gameland/Access Area	§ 113-264(a)
8514	Littering Beer/Wine Container	local ordinance

Table 3-5. Statewide Littering Charges and Convictions

Offense Code	Charges	Convictions	CHARGES BY CHARGING AGENCY								Charges Disposed	METHOD OF DISPOSITION				
			ABC	ALE	DMV	Police	Sheriff	SHP	WRC	Other		Guilty Plea	Trial: Guilty	Trial: Not Guilty	Dismiss	Other
4425	1061	362	0	0	0	230	40	782	0	9	1126	46	0	0	738	342
5370	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
5371	9	1	0	0	0	6	2	0	1	0	14	1	0	0	10	3
5372	1777	532	12	20	2	715	230	472	229	97	2262	310	14	4	1639	295
5373	98	33	0	0	0	35	29	2	10	22	128	29	0	2	92	5
5374	45	0	0	0	0	2	35	1	2	5	34	2	0	0	12	20
5375	177	87	5	0	0	51	13	94	8	6	226	12	0	0	152	62
5376	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0
5377	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
6248	57	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	72	10	0	0	31	31
8514	89	22	0	0	0	63	3	22	1	0	152	21	0	0	130	1
TOTAL	3320	1078	17	20	2	1106	353	1375	308	139	4025	431	14	6	2815	759

LITTERING CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS BY COUNTY

Calendar Year 2017

The following data are from the NCAOC's Automated Criminal/Infraction System for calendar year 2017. The number of charges and convictions represents totals from district and superior court. Some of the defendants have other charges in addition to a littering offense. It is possible for a defendant to be charged in one calendar year and convicted in the next. Thus, for any given calendar year, the defendants convicted are not necessarily the same defendants charged in that year.

For each county, the number of charges is listed in the first row and convictions in the second row.

	Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2017										
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	6248 8514
Statewide	3320 1078	1061 362	4 0	9 1	1777 532	98 33	45 0	177 87	2 0	1 0	57 41 89 22
Alamance	33 10	15 6			14 2	3 1					1 1
Alexander	4 2	1 0			3 2			0 0			
Alleghany	2 1	1 0			1 1						
Anson	19 1	4 1		1 0	12 0			1 0			1 0
Ashe	3 1	1 1			2 0						
Avery	16 6	3 1			9 4	0 0		3 1			1 0
Beaufort	14 8	2 0			10 5			2 3			
Bertie	5 0	2 0			1 0	2 0					
Bladen	13 2	4 0			8 1						1 1
Brunswick	45 8	19 4			23 3	1 0		0 1			2 0
Buncombe	96 19	34 14			50 3	1 0		7 2			4 0
Burke	44 18	12 5			23 9						9 4
Cabarrus	66 35	28 10			35 24			3 1			
Caldwell	19 13	3 0			11 6	0 0		0 2			5 5
Camden	8 0	2 0			6 0						
Carteret	29 13	7 4			14 3	0 0	1 0	6 6			1 0
Caswell	7 3	2 0			4 3			1 0			
Catawba	47 20	12 6			28 10			1 0			6 4
Chatham	62 23	8 1			52 21			1 0		0 0	1 1

For each county, the number of charges is listed in the first row and convictions in the second row.

Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2017											
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	6248 8514
Cherokee	14	4			7	2		1			
	2	0			2	0		0			
Chowan	6	2			4			0			
	3	0			2			1			
Clay	4	2	1		1						
	1	1	0		0						
Cleveland	29	4			13	3	2	6			1
	15	6			4	2	0	3			0
Columbus	21	9			12						0
	6	4			2						0
Craven	45	13		1	25	1		4			1
	29	6		0	17	1		4			1
Cumberland	92	30			47	1		11		1	1
	31	8			19	1		1		0	2
Currituck	15	3			7	0	1	4			
	6	2			0	0	0	4			
Dare	34	6			16	5		7			
	14	1			5	2		6			
Davidson	51	14		4	21	3		2			7
	24	3		1	10	0		2			8
Davie	13	5			8	0					
	6	1			5	0					
Duplin	43	17			22	3		1			
	11	6			4	0		1			
Durham	44	22			18	1		2			1
	10	5			4	1		0			0
Edgecombe	27	13			13	1	0				0
	12	7			4	1	0				0
Forsyth	107	33			61	0		7			6
	35	10			23	0		1			1
Franklin	21	5			14	1	1	0			
	3	2			1	0	0	0			
Gaston	109	23			73	1		6			6
	25	5			11	0		4			5
Gates	5	2			2	1					
	4	1			2	1					
Graham	3	2			1						
	1	1			0						
Granville	12	3			6	1	1				1
	4	1			2	1	0				0
Greene	20	12			4			4			
	4	4			0			0			
Guilford	93	30			55	2		3			3
	15	7			8	0		0			0
Halifax	28	3			21	2	1	1			0
	9	2			6	0	0	0			1
Harnett	49	31			15	0	0	1			2

For each county, the number of charges is listed in the first row and convictions in the second row.

Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2017											
Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	6248	8514
13	6			4	1	0	2				0
Haywood	18	7		7	3	1	0				
	7	6		1	0	0	0				
Henderson	65	18		42	0	1	1			3	
	23	7		12	1	0	0			3	
Hertford	11	2		8							1
	3	1		2							0
Hoke	8	5		3			0				
	3	2		1			0				
Hyde	4			2						2	
	3			1						2	
Iredell	45	16		25	2		2				
	18	5		10	0		3				
Jackson	7	4		2	0					1	
	5	2		2	1					0	
Johnston	58	20		30	1		6	1			
	11	3		6	0		2	0			
Jones	7	3		4							
	2	2		0							
Lee	11	6		4			1				0
	1	0		1			0				0
Lenoir	29	4		20	1	1	0				3
	13	4		7	1	0	1				0
Lincoln	25	8		14	2		1				
	8	4		3	0		1				
Macon	7	3		1	1		2				
	3	3		0	0		0				
Madison	13	3		6	0	1	0			2	1
	2	1		0	0	0	1			0	0
Martin	12	3		9							
	5	1		4							
McDowell	15	2		9	0					3	1
	10	0		5	1					3	1
Mecklenburg	205	104	0	2	76	5	15	0	0	1	2
	49	35	0	0	11	0	3	0	0	0	0
Mitchell	4	2		1			1				
	2	0		1			1				
Montgomery	11	6		5	0					0	
	1	0		0	1					0	
Moore	28	10	1	10	1		1				5
	8	1	0	1	0		1				5
Nash	41	20		20	1		0				
	13	6		7	0		0				
New Hanover	108	42		61	0		5				0
	41	15		20	0		6				0
Northampton	1			0	1						
	0			0	0						

For each county, the number of charges is listed in the first row and convictions in the second row.

	Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2017										
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	6248 8514
Onslow	48	21	1		21	0	2	3			
	16	7	0		9	0	0	0			
Orange	37	12			20	2		1			2
	7	5			1	0		1			0
Pamlico	4	2			1	1					
	3	0			0	3					
Pasquotank	16	1		1	14	0		0			
	10	1		0	9	0		0			
Pender	26	12			11	1		2			
	6	4			2	0		0			
Perquimans	3	1			0	1		1			
	1	0			0	0		1			
Person	19	4			15						
	10	1			9						
Pitt	57	23			25	0		7			2
	14	7			3	0		4			0
Polk	16	2			11	1		2			0
	8	1			6	1		0			0
Randolph	31	11			18			2			
	8	2			5			1			
Richmond	25	11			10	3					1
	5	1			3	0					1
Robeson	63	11			40	6		3			3
	27	4			18	3		0			2
Rockingham	10	6			2	1		0			1
	3	2			1	0		0			0
Rowan	39	5			28	2	0	1			2
	22	1			17	2	0	0			2
Rutherford	29	5			20	1		3			
	15	3			6	1		5			
Sampson	44	21		0	16	1	4	0			2
	14	7		0	7	0	0	0			0
Scotland	12	4			6						2
	3	2			0						1
Stanly	20	8			11			1			
	9	2			6			1			
Stokes	22	3			16	2	1				
	9	0			8	1	0				
Surry	28	6			9	0	2	10	0		0
	9	1			5	0	0	2	0		1
Swain	3	1			2						
	1	0			1						
Transylvania	17	3			11		1	1			1
	5	2			2		0	1			0
Tyrrell	7	2			5						
	1	0			1						

	Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2017											
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	6248	8514
Union	74	17			53	4		0				
	16	4			11	0		1				
Vance	35	0			10	0	24	1				0
	2	1			1	0	0	0				0
Wake	338	93	1		188	7		15	1			33
	93	47	0		40	0		0	0			6
Warren	7	1			5	1						
	1	0			0	1						
Washington	10	3			3	4						
	2	2			0	0						
Watauga	16	4			6	1						5
	8	3			4	1						0
Wayne	51	9			38			3				1
	17	3			11			2				1
Wilkes	22	8			14			0				
	17	4			10			3				
Wilson	23	10			10	2		0				1
	11	4			5	0		1				1
Yadkin	12	2			5	4		0				1
	8	1			4	3		0				0
Yancey	6	3			2			1				
	0	0			0			0				

Appendix A: Contacts

Department	Contact	Email	Phone
NC Department of Transportation Office of Beautification	Don Lee, CPESC	dlee@ncdot.gov	919-707-2970
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